

Partially through the efforts of the Conservancy's Land Trust Service Bureau, 198 acres at Lake Wintergreen, Hamden, was recently purchased by the State and added to West Rock Ridge State Park. (See story on page 5)

Photo courtesy of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority.

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CONSERVANCY AND DEP START JOINT LAND PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Trustees are pleased to announce the advent of the Connecticut Natural Heritage Registry, a joint program of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and The Nature Conservancy. We and DEP visit an owner of land known to harbor rare species or support other important natural features and ask him to (a) continue protecting the area, (b) notify the Conservancy of threats, and (c) tell us if he plans to sell. For making that commitment — that is, for registering his property — the owner receives a special plaque honoring his volunteer stewardship of Connecticut's vanishing ecological heritage.

The Registry is a non-binding, non-regulatory program. The decision to register belongs entirely to the landowner, thrives on a handshake only, and can be cancelled at any time. No cash is exchanged. Since the property remains in private ownership, the land is not open to the public nor are site locations published, unless by the owner's permission.

Land considered for registration is first identified by scientists at the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base, a computer-assisted inventory of the state's rare and endangered species and vanishing natural communities, located in DEP's Natural Resources Center. The Registry staff then

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AT WORK

	Nationally	In Connecticut
Total projects	4,805	329
Total acres saved	2,321,675	15,409
Members	232,078	7,319
Corporate Associates	420	19
Tradeland Gifts Received	302	22



National Office: 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, Virginia 22209

Continued on page 2

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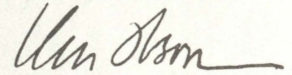
approaches the landowner, explains the ecological value of his property, and asks him to register the area.

Although registration provides no legal protection for land, the process establishes a working relationship among the owner, the Conservancy, and DEP. In states where registries have been running for some years, it has been shown that such relationships often act as early warning systems enabling TNC to move quickly in case of outside threat. In other instances, landowners had been unaware that their property was special, were glad to be so informed, and

happily undertook to guard the noteworthy natural features. Finally, registration, which costs little and deals with non-threatened land, allows TNC to direct its limited acquisition monies to truly jeopardized natural areas, thus maximizing the effect of every dollar contributed to the Conservancy.

We are pleased to be cooperating once again with DEP's Natural Resources Center, under the leadership of Dr. Hugo Thomas, a recipient of TNC's Certificate of Special Recognition. And we look forward to working with Diane Mayerfeld, the State's Director of Natural Heritage, who will join TNC's Carolyn Evans in operating the Registry.

The Connecticut Natural Heritage Registry expands the Conservancy's Critical Areas Program by adding another means of protecting prime natural lands. We are proud to say thanks to you, our members, our protection program is growing soundly and surely. The Registry is another example of the Conservancy's commitment to work hard in your behalf to keep Connecticut wild and beautiful.



W. Kent Olson
Executive Director

From the Land

Published for the members of
the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

Winter/1985

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On January 14, the new Connecticut Natural Heritage Registry, jointly operated by DEP and TNC, registered its first site, on the property of Judith and William R. Burch (center), Branford. Carolyn Evans (left), TNC's Director of Land Protection, and Diane Mayerfeld, DEP's Director of Natural Heritage, flank the Burches, who received a plaque honoring their voluntary commitment to protect a rare species occurring on their land.

Photo by Hart Bourque.

APRIL HIKE IN EAST HADDAM AT A SHOWCASE PRESERVE

Pack a lunch and come hiking with Dr. Richard Goodwin, Professor Emeritus of Botany, Connecticut College. He will guide us through lovely Burnham Brook Preserve, site of several research projects including impact of gypsy moths, stream invertebrate analysis, open field revegetation and bird studies.

The two-hour easy-to-moderate walk will begin at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, April 20. You are invited to picnic at the Goodwin house afterwards. Please contact the office (344-0716) by April 1 if you would like to attend, and we will mail you a map and directions. Group is limited to 30 people.

DATA BASE REVIEWS 900 SITES SO FAR

One year has passed since Governor William O'Neill announced the establishment of the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base, a computer-assisted, comprehensive inventory of all of Connecticut's rare and endangered species and vanishing natural communities. The Data Base is a joint effort of the Conservancy and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with partial support from the National Audubon Society.

For ten years scientists from DEP's Natural Resource Center, where the Data Base is located, have surveyed available literature, viewed museum and herbarium specimens, spoken with knowledgeable individuals and conducted field research on Connecticut's rare species and ecosystems in order to compile as complete an inventory as possible. Contributors to the Data Base include university students and professors, other non-profit groups (such as nature centers, land trusts, and Audubon groups), government agencies, and DEP staff.

Over the last year, the Data Base staff has organized this information into more than 1,200 readily-accessible computer records, enabling it to answer more than 280 requests concerning 900 different sites. Users include state and federal agencies, utility companies, town conservation groups, private conservation groups, universities and private consultants. The Data Base staff reviews each request and tells the user if the site has any special ecological qualities.

Nancy Murray, Data Base Manager, explained, "We work with users to resolve potential threats to rare and endangered species and critical habitats. Recommendations are made to accommodate development and the survival of the species or habitat in question."

The Natural Diversity Data Base provides a number of services to the Connecticut Chapter of the Conservancy. A scientifically documented list of target acquisitions is produced for the Connecticut Critical Areas Program, including a list for the Registry program, a new land venture of DEP and the Conservancy.

Said Chairman Alexander Gardner, "DEP is doing a great job of identifying Connecticut's rarities and of guiding development away from sensitive areas. The general public is largely unaware of this excellent work and of the quiet professional accomplishments of DEP's Natural Resource Center staff and the Data Base personnel, but we in the Conservancy want to say thanks in behalf of our 7,000 members."

HELP SAVE LAND . . . BUY A YACHT FROM TNC

Thanks to the generosity of member Allen Hermes, West Redding, the Chapter recently received a gift of two sailboats. They will be sold at fair-market value, with proceeds applied toward the Conservancy's work in Connecticut.

One is a 30-foot Nonsuch (fiberglass) in excellent condition. The other is a 36-foot wood Meadow Lark that needs work. If interested in one or both, call Ken Olson at Chapter headquarters (344-0716).

BOLT TECHNOLOGY JOINS CONSERVANCY

Chairman Alex Gardner recently announced a generous contribution from Bolt Technology towards the Chimon Island project. Based in Norwalk, Bolt has pioneered equipment for seismic surveying and is one of Connecticut's fastest growing high-tech companies.

Bolt has also become a Corporate Associate of the Conservancy, joining 20 Connecticut corporations whose annual dues support Chapter operations. Corporate Associate memberships start at \$1,000 per year.

Commented Gardner, "Bolt is a first-rate company, and we are delighted to have earned their support."

CORPORATIONS SUPPORT CHAPTER

We would like to thank the businesses that annually are helping make possible the continued success of The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut.

CORPORATE ASSOCIATES (\$1,000 or more annually)

Aetna Life and Casualty Company
AMAX Foundation, Inc.
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Kaman Corporation
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Our gratitude also goes to the following corporations which have been generous contributors to the Connecticut Critical Areas Program.

Bolt Technology Corporation
Celanese Corporation
Equator Bank
General Electric Foundation
GTE Foundation
Howe Furniture
KMI Continental Group, Inc.
Suzio Concrete Company



Framed photographs of rare shore birds were presented by the Conservancy to Connecticut congressmen in appreciation for their leadership in passing the federal legislation which created the Connecticut Coastal Wildlife Refuge. When completed, the refuge will include Chimon Island, which the Conservancy purchased in September 1984, Faulkner and Sheffield Islands, and Milford Point, all in Long Island Sound. Top left: Ken Olson, Executive Director, Connecticut Chapter, TNC, and Stewart McKinney, U.S. Congressman, 4th District. Top right: Alex Gardner, Chairman, Connecticut Chapter, TNC, and William Ratchford, former U.S. Congressman, 5th District. Bottom: Bruce Morrison, U.S. Congressman, 3rd District, William Meezan, aide to Rep. Morrison; and Ken Olson.

Photos by Susan Bournique.

PARTNERSHIPS IN CONSERVATION

Preservation has become a costly business — in dollars and in staff time. As land gets more expensive, we find ourselves saying: "We need all the help we can get." Fortunately, there are many private non-profit organizations in Connecticut interested in land saving. And fortunately, among these groups the prevailing attitude is cooperation not competition.

With limited resources and so much to do, it would be wasteful for conservation organizations to vie with each other. Instead the Conservancy, other private groups, and public agencies have been working together to achieve what otherwise might have been impossible.

For example, our Chapter has joined with the Housatonic Valley Association to protect Benton Hill Fen. Chapman's Pond was a partnership involving the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, the East Haddam Land Trust, and

the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. At Chimon Island we had the vital support of the Connecticut Audubon Society, the City of Norwalk, the State, and the federal government. And in establishing Connecticut's Natural Diversity Data Base, we worked with DEP, with important financing from the National Audubon Society.

The Land Trust Service Bureau is another effort of our Chapter to work closely with our colleagues — in this case the state's 82 local land trusts. While still in its experimental stages, it is our hope that the Service Bureau will help to increase the effectiveness of these trusts, which collectively own and manage the state's largest private system of conservation lands.

In the future, as we encounter more of those "mega-projects" which are too large for any single private organization, we see the Conservancy and our Chapter acting as participants in joint ventures involving many public- and private-sector institutions. This sort of consortium-building is the key way we will make up for the loss of federal funds which were once available for land acquisition.

With its experienced staff and its background of specialization in land preservation, I expect that our Chapter will be the originator and coordinator of many such projects. Our staff have helped to build the necessary networks among conservation groups and agencies. We have no "turf" problems and can welcome the help of all our conservation colleagues — giving credit where credit is due.

Working together, with growing effectiveness, is going to be the key to the collective success of Connecticut's conservation agencies in land protection for many years to come. We have a good start on a tradition here, and it's one all Connecticut conservationists will want to encourage.

Alexander S. Gardner

Alexander S. Gardner
Chairman, Board of Trustees

CONNECTICUT RIVER ECOSYSTEM CONFERENCE

The Eighth Annual Research Conference on the Connecticut River Ecosystem will be held at the Mountain School in Vershire, Vermont on Saturday, April 27, 1985. Anyone currently conducting research on the geology, botany, zoology, or ecology of the Connecticut River, its floodplain, or associated wetlands is encouraged to present a paper.

The Mountain School is located in rural eastern Vermont on a tributary of the Connecticut. The school has had a long-standing commitment to environmental education, and currently serves as a focal point for the environmental issues and farm programs of Milton Academy.

For additional information contact:

Dr. Kevin Mattingly	or	Dr. Marjorie Holland
Environmental Sciences		Dept. of Biology
The Mountain School Program		School of Arts & Sciences
of Milton Academy		College of New Rochelle
Vershire, Vermont 05079		New Rochelle, N.Y. 10801

FOURTH EASEMENT SECURED AT MOORE BROOK

The Chapter is pleased to report continued progress in preserving the Moore Brook watershed, Salisbury. This fall, Mrs. Elizabeth Wingeback donated a perpetual conservation easement protecting 12 acres of wetlands there. Moore Brook runs for nearly three miles from Fisher Pond to Spruce Swamp Creek and is considered to be one of Connecticut's best examples of a calcareous seepage swamp. To date, botanists from the Conservancy and the State DEP have identified eight plants known to be rare or endangered in Connecticut.

Moore Brook was selected for protection in 1983, under the Connecticut Critical Areas Program. Last year, three landowners donated conservation easements protecting 193 acres of prime wetlands, and at this writing the Chapter is close to agreements with four other Moore Brook landowners. The Salisbury Association, one of the state's most successful land trusts, will help monitor the Moore Brook easements.

Commented Chapter Chairman Alex Gardner, "We are indebted to the Wingebacks for their interest and generosity. The amount of protected land at Moore Brook continues to grow. I am delighted as well with the interest other landowners have shown. The project is truly a cooperative effort, and we should all feel proud of the results."

Ken Olson added, "Our success so far at Moore Brook is due in large measure to the highly professional work of Dave Warren, Director of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program. He has negotiated well and has earned the respect and friendship of many people in the northwest corner."

CONSERVANCY AND LTSB HELP IN PARK ADDITION

In late 1984, the State of Connecticut, through DEP, purchased 198 acres of ecologically and scenically important land to enlarge West Rock State Park in greater New Haven. Through its Land Trust Service Bureau (LTSB), the Conservancy participated in the West Rock Coalition, a group of conservation organizations including the land trusts of Bethany, Hamden, New Haven, and Woodbridge.

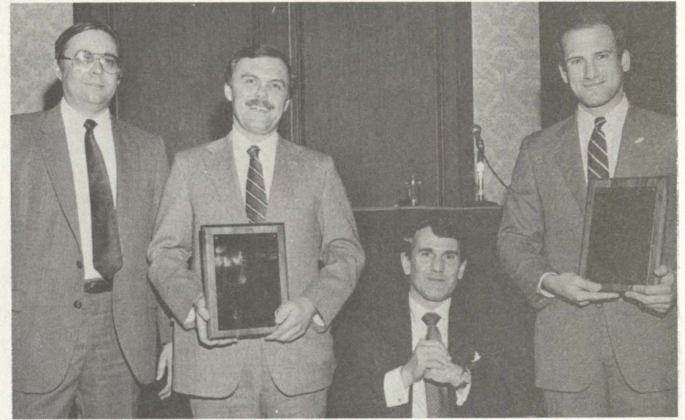
Suzi Wilkins, then the LTSB director, now executive director of the Farmington River Watershed Association, chaired the coalition, which successfully urged passage of a \$750,000-dollar state bonding measure to buy the land, which abuts Lake Wintergreen in Hamden.

Julie Lewin, new LTSB director, said, "Suzi Wilkins' leadership made the day. As coalition chair, she was credited by many as spurring the bonding measure and working cooperatively with many groups, agencies, and officials, including Governor O'Neill, who signed the measure."

Said LTSB Chairman Peter Neill, "This is a great example of how so many people and organizations can work together to preserve critical land. Governor O'Neill, Commissioner Pac of DEP, the late Parks Director Bill Miller, the South Central Regional Water Authority, former Senator Gene Skowronski, Representative Ron Smoko, and the other conservation organizations and spirited citizens who catalyzed the effort — all deserve thanks and congratulations."

Neill added, "Finally, members of the Conservancy should be quite pleased that TNC, through its Land Trust Service Bureau, has once again worked behind the scenes to achieve permanent, tangible protection for an area threatened by development." West Rock State Park has been called by the Connecticut Audubon Society "the crowning jewel of Connecticut's park system."

Efforts to preserve the West Rock area began a century ago. When completed, years hence, the park will be Connecticut's largest.



The Environmental Protection Agency recently presented awards to two Conservancy staff for their work on Chimon Island and the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base. Left to right: Lee M. Thomas, Acting Administrator, EPA; Ken Olson, Executive Director, Connecticut Chapter, TNC; Michael R. Deland, Regional Administrator, Region I, EPA; and David Warren, Connecticut Critical Areas Program Director, TNC.

Photo courtesy of EPA.

EPA HONORS OLSON, WARREN OF CONNECTICUT STAFF

Two executives of The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter were cited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their work in preserving the state's natural heritage.

In a ceremony December 14, W. Kent Olson, Executive Director, and David P. Warren, Critical Areas Program Director, received 1984 Environmental Awards, the highest honor the federal agency can bestow on citizens. EPA presents the awards annually to highlight environmental progress begun with action at the grass roots level.

"Maybe this honor can be an appropriate public 'thank you' to two men who have helped to assure that Connecticut will be a better place to live for generations to come," said Rep. Stewart B. McKinney, who made the nominations, together with Senator Lowell Weicker, Jr. The awards are to recognize their efforts to preserve Chimon Island as a wildlife refuge and in creating the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base.

The Conservancy recently purchased Chimon, a natural breeding habitat for herons, egrets and other wading birds threatened by development of shoreline areas. The island just off Norwalk, which had been sought by a developer, is to be part of a 145-acre federal wildlife preserve being created under a new law authored by McKinney.

The Data Base is a computer-assisted, comprehensive inventory of the state's endangered species and vanishing natural communities.

CHAPTER'S NEW ACORNS — 1984

A member becomes an Acorn by donating \$100 or more annually to Chapter operations to supplement dues. Our thanks go to the following who joined as Acorns in 1984.

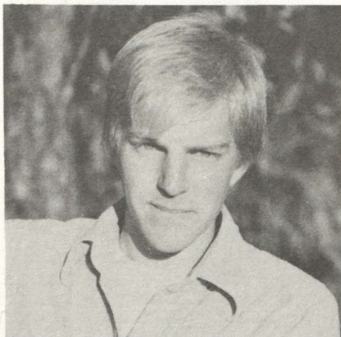
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Mr. Chester Brooks Kerr
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Mr. Oswald D. Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. John Light, III
Litchfield Conservation Trust
Mrs. Kenneth Littauer
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Littlefield
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Mr. Ramsey Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen H. Wilson
Wilton Garden Club
Mrs. Christopher Young
Mr. David M. Zala
Dr. L. W. Zimmerman

Our gratitude also goes to the many Acorns who renewed their support in 1984. Connecticut Acorns now number 333.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

We have been fortunate to have as a nearly-full-time volunteer John B. (Bart) Hoskins, a recent graduate of



John B. Hoskins, Chapter volunteer.

Connecticut College in zoology. Bart has given us valuable assistance in completing easement documentation, analyzing alternative telephone systems, getting our new IBM computer up and running, and countless other thankless tasks. His tact, good cheer, and commitment to Conservancy ob-

jectives have made him a first-rate contributor to the organization.

Bart has also been working as a part-time intern with TNC researching, compiling, and analyzing statistics on the growth of the Chapter — information useful in planning our future program.

Also volunteering has been Mary Ann Buehler, a Wesleyan senior who spent three weeks in January as an "extern" as part of the Wesleyan Career Outlook Program. Her time was spent primarily doing mapping for the Connecticut Critical Areas Program. Externships are intended to give undergraduate students a chance to investigate various career options, discover their skills and interests, and broaden their academic education while volunteering in a real working environment.

LAND TRUST SERVICE BUREAU: "Every Parcel Should Have a Home"

Now four years old, the maturing LTSB is concentrating on expanding protected land in Connecticut. TNC members could help this cause enormously, said Peter Neill, Chairman, Land Trust Service Bureau Advisory Committee.

"Much of LTSB's early effort was spent educating about the need for a unifying association for the state's 82 land trusts," Neill said. "But Phase II requires that LTSB — its Advisory Committee members and director — evaluate itself, quite simply, by the number of acres it helps land trusts protect."

Much land worthy of preservation does not shelter endangered species, and therefore is not eligible for TNC protection. But TNC members can play a key role by identifying and donating land for placement through LTSB to a local trust. If no appropriate trust exists, LTSB will investigate other ways to ensure the land's protection, including the feasibility of starting a new trust.

LTSB has served as such a conduit before (*see Fall 1984 issue, page 11*), but such activity will become the primary purpose of the Bureau in 1985.

In order to bolster its new activism, LTSB has expanded its Advisory Committee from 16 to 25 members. The new committee will, first, better represent the state's 82 trusts geographically and numerically, and, second, better reach out to kindle the spirit of "active acquisition" among all the trusts.

"No worthy land should fall through the cracks," said TNC Director Ken Olson. "The function of LTSB is to prevent that. Every parcel should have a home."

Joining the Advisory Committee members are: Mary M. Ackerly, Norfolk Land Trust; Robert C. Boardman, President, East Lyme Land Conservation Trust; Nelson M. Camp, President, Southbury Land Trust; Margaret Langlois, Bethlehem Land Trust; Robert London, President, Saybrook Land Conservancy; George Madsen, President, Roxbury Land Trust; C. S. Putnam, President, Aspetuck Land Trust (Westport, Weston, Fairfield, Easton); Hugh Schoelzel, Litchfield Conservation Land Trust; and Mrs. H. Danforth Starr, Greenwich Land Trust.

Call Service Bureau Director Julie Lewin at 344-9867 or 344-0716 to discuss how you can help LTSB's active acquisition program.